

## May Newsletter

*This month we focus on remembering fallen veterans, disabilities, and helping you with your personal injury needs*

### Memorial Day reminds us of the cost of freedom

Every year in May we celebrate Memorial Day - a day to remember the brave men and women who have fallen in the line of duty defending our country. Although Memorial Day is specifically to commemorate and remember all those we have lost, there are plenty of young men and women among us who have fought and served overseas and returned home requiring our help. Attorney Wade Coye touched on these very issues in his [Memorial Day speech](#) last year, but it is a concern that we at the Coye Law Firm try to be cognizant of all year round.



Recently, we have been focusing several of our blogs and online discussions on the rights and concerns of veterans who return state-side with continuing problems, and who deserve the support and concern of all of us. As mentioned in last month's newsletter, the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act has recently been further supported and servicemembers have been awarded a [big win](#) to receive compensation for mortgages and foreclosures they suffered in violation of the Act. Additionally, it concerns us that many servicemembers return home suffering the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder, as discussed in our recent [blog](#). These men and women may be eligible for veterans' disability benefits and can contact us to discuss their situation.

Alarming, the number of veterans who are returning home from overseas conflicts suffering from traumatic brain injuries is increasing at a faster rate than ever before. These individuals may have severe life-long-lasting effects that could impair them and impact their ability to live life fully. Because of the physical and mental ailments that can result, [veterans suffering from traumatic brain injuries](#) may be eligible for veterans' disability benefits and Social Security disability benefits. Veterans can also suffer from the after-effects of prescription medication they were taking when overseas after they return home. These medications can contribute to delayed recovery and re-entrance into civilian life, as well as may be linked to a higher rate of veteran suicide and self-inflicted injury. This disturbing information is something else we have discussed in a recent [blog](#) because we feel it is important to shine light on these situations occurring in our communities.

This Memorial Day we'd like to encourage you to take an active stance in your community and remember that the veterans who return home are lucky in some respects, but still suffering. Show them that you recognize their great sacrifice and the ultimate sacrifice of those who have not returned home at all. Memorial Day is a day every year to remind each and every one of us of the cost of freedom.

### Concussions and traumatic brain injuries in the NFL

On May 3, 2012 more than 100 former NFL players [filed suit](#) against the NFL in federal court in Atlanta. This is just the most recent case in a slew of lawsuits by former players against the NFL. The plaintiffs in all these cases claim that the NFL insufficiently dealt with the concussion epidemic that has only recently been highlighted by advocates and the national media. They assert counts of fraudulent concealment, negligent misrepresentation, conspiracy to defraud, loss of consortium and more. Adding to the drama surrounding the legal standoff is the tragic death of former pro-bowler Junior Seau.



[Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy \(CTE\)](#) - also known as "punch drunk symptom" - is associated with memory loss, confusion, impaired judgment, impulse control problems, aggression, depression, and, eventually, progressive dementia, and is the result of serious, violent, and continued head traumas. Concussions are the ultimate silent killer; they are very difficult to diagnose and the incentives to avoid confronting the problem are great. The NFL culture of sweeping concussions under the rug further complicates the already difficult task of identifying concussions during a game. Minor concussions can carry minimal symptoms but multiple small concussions over a career can have devastating effects, as exposed by the Seau tragedy. Properly diagnosing concussions and ensuring player safety is now the challenge confronting the NFL.

The dangers of concussions and head injuries are not limited to our beloved national sports though. Head injuries can occur in car accidents, at work, or from an accident. And what about the person who suffered multiple concussions but does not have the explicit and easily recognizable symptoms associated with CTE? What if they have just suffered a

general slowdown in mental capabilities that is often associated with multiple concussions? A [worker's compensation](#) or [disability](#) claim is much more difficult to establish in this case, as a disability may not become evident for months or years after the injury. This problem is true for any person who has suffered multiple or even, a single, damaging concussion while on the job. An experienced worker's compensation lawyer is needed to prove that your disabilities were caused by your on-the-job head injury and worker's compensation is not only appropriate, but necessary. The current situation in the NFL reminds us all how even if our jobs aren't glamorous they can affect us for our entire lives.

### Congratulations to our graduates

This month, the Coye Law Firm is pleased and proud to announce several staff members who have commenced important levels in their education. We enthusiastically congratulate each one and wish them the best in their educational or professional futures:

[Legal assistant](#) Emily Haslam graduated from University of Central Florida with her BS in legal studies. Emily has been accepted to the University of Florida College of Law and will be attending in the fall.

[Assistant case managers](#) Ivy Quinones and Sanessa Griffiths completed their bachelor's degrees from UCF as well. Ivy's is in legal studies with a minor in criminal justice and Sanessa's is in legal studies and political science with a minor in business. Ivy will be attending Florida A&M College of Law while Sanessa will be attending George Washington Law School in Washington D.C.

[Account controller](#) Erin Gartow has graduated from the Master's in Business Administration program at UCF.

[Law clerk](#) Miriam Thornton has completed her Juris Doctorate from Florida State University. She will now be preparing to take the Florida Bar exam to become a member of the Florida Bar.



### Coye Law Firm's Orlando Office Recognized for Architectural Award of Merit



The Associated Builders and Contractors Incorporated's [2011 Excellence in Construction Awards](#) recognized our new Orlando office with an Award of Merit. The beautiful new brick building located on 730 Vassar St. in College Park was applauded for its unique structural and exterior appearance, and beautiful and modern interior.

The interior boasts an "urban-style design" with "exposed warehouse ceilings, fire lines, ductwork and conduits". The lobby and conference rooms have a brick interior with "multiple high end finishes and lighting fixtures throughout." The building also exhibits open aired offices and multiple large windows throughout. All three floors of the building serve a unique purpose with the top two floors serving as the functioning office for the Coye Law Firm.



The Coye Law firm offers representation to client's in personal injury, worker's compensation, social security disability and transaction cases, including family law, probate, tax and other business related areas.

### Your legal rights and the damaging side effects of prescription medications: SSRI's, Yaz, and Actos

Millions of people are prescribed medication every year for various physical and psychology maladies. Sometimes, these drugs can have negative and lasting side-effects that can impact a person and their family. The Coye Law Firm is dedicated to fighting for justice for all consumers, including those who have suffered ill effects as a result of prescribed medication. If you or anyone you know has been prescribed any of the following medications and are concerned about their impact on your life or the lives of your loved ones, please [contact us](#) immediately to discuss your situation and see if you may have a [personal injury](#) claim. As always, there is **NO COST** to speak with a member of our staff about your potential personal injury claim.

#### Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRI's): Celexa, Lexapro, Prozac, Sarafem, Paxil, Pexeva, Zoloft

SSRI's are a class of drugs that affect many chemicals in the brain that pass messages between nerve cells. They are commonly prescribed for adults for the treatment of depression, obsessive compulsive disorder, panic disorder, premenstrual dysphoric disorder, and social anxiety disorders such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in adults. Recent research has found that serious birth defects can result from pregnant women who take this type of drug during the course of their pregnancy. These problems can include heart defects, lung defects, cranial defects (including cleft lip or palate), pulmonary hypertension, leg or arm defects, extreme behavior disorders, spina bifida, and more. These medical conditions can require surgery, medication, and life-long treatment. Although there are some warnings given about the effects of these medications, people are often not sufficiently told about the serious results that can occur. Call today if you feel that you or [your child](#) may have been affected by the taking of SSRI's.



#### Oral contraceptives: Yaz, Yasmin, Ocella, Gianva

Oral contraceptives are a class of prescription medications designed to help regulate female hormonal releases for reproductive health and regularity. They are often prescribed for ovarian cysts, hormonal therapy, premenstrual dysphoric disorder, to prevent pregnancy, and for other reasons. Despite their popular usage, some brands have allegedly been linked to the development of serious side effects such as heart and cardiovascular problems, high blood pressure, pulmonary embolism, deep vein thrombosis, blood clots, stroke, gall bladder issues, and death. Other potential side-effects have been reported, and some people suffer from a combination of many. If you have taken any of these medications and are concerned about resulting medical expenses for any of the potential side effects, please [contact us](#) to discuss your potential for compensation for pain and suffering, rehabilitation, and the loss of the enjoyment of life.

#### Diabetes control: Actos

Actos has been one of the most popular prescriptions in the US to assist people with Type II Diabetes to manage and control their blood sugar. It has recently been discovered to potentially be associated with bladder tumors and bladder cancer, with the death of several users possibly being linked to taking it. European countries have begun investigating these claims, and the FDA has recently issued that additional warnings must be added to Actos' label to make consumers aware of these potential side effects. If you or a loved one has been using Actos for more than one year to help control diabetes, you may be at risk for these medical complications. Please [contact us](#) right away to discuss your potential to file a personal injury claim to compensate you for any loss you experience due to the effects of this medication.



### Welcome our newest accounting assistant

Our newest staff member, Jennifer Betancourth joins our accounting staff this month. Jennifer has experience in legal accounting and bookkeeping. She is also a student at the University of Central Florida and is completing her bachelor's degree with a double major in accounting and finance. When her BS degree is completed she is currently planning to apply for a Master's degree and become a certified public accountant as well.

Ms. Jennifer Betancourth served in the United States Marine Corps from 2001 - 2005 with two tours overseas. She drove combat vehicles in convoys in Iraq in 2004 and performed embark duties in Kuwait in 2003. She received an honorable discharge at the rank of Corporal and cannot stress enough the values of personality, character, and integrity she gained during her years of service.

Jennifer is also the proud mother of her seven year old son. She enjoys spending her spare time with him engaging in outdoor activities such as camping, biking, and fishing. Her son loves to go cruising in her Jeep in particular.

For Jennifer, her experiences in Iraq and Kuwait can never be forgotten and she encourages each and every one of us to never forget the men and women who sacrifice and serve for our country. We at the Coye Law Firm are very proud of Jennifer and her service, and would like to commend her and all other servicemembers for their choice to serve.



Jennifer (far right) with her platoon mates, Kuwait 2003



The Coye Law Firm continues to represent consumers and employees in their claims for [personal injury](#), [workers compensation](#), and [Social Security disability](#) benefits. Call our offices today at [800-648-4941](#) to speak with someone who can evaluate your situation and determine if we can help you with your claim.

To learn more about our firm & practice areas, visit [coylaw.com](#) or [coylawdisabilitycenter.com](#)

ORLANDO	TAMPA	MELBOURNE	KISSIMMEE	CLERMONT
730 Vassar street Orlando, FL 32804 Phone: (407) 648-4940 Fax: (407) 648-4614	2202 N. West Shore Blvd Tampa, FL 33607 Phone: (813) 333-2330	6767 North Wickham Road Suite 400 Melbourne, FL 32940 Phone: (321) 751-2300 Fax: (407) 648-4614	3 S John Young Pkwy Kissimmee, FL 34741 Phone: (407) 648-9106 Fax: (407) 648-4614	310 Almond St Clermont, FL 34711 Phone: (352) 702-0199 Fax: (407) 648-4614